

## REMARKS

Claims 17, 20, 21, 23, 29, 30, 109, 124, 125, 127, and 128 have been amended. Claims 19, 28, 32 - 37, 63 - 68, 70, 123, and 126 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 17, 18, 20 - 27, 29 - 31, 38 - 62, 69, 71 - 122, 124, 125, and 127 - 130 are now pending.

Claims 17 - 21, 23 - 30, 53, 61, and 69 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by "Applicant's Admitted Prior Art", presumably the application's Background Art on pages 1 - 9 of the specification. Claims 22, 31 - 37, 54, and 62 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious based on Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Misu et al. ("Misu"), Japanese Patent Publication 7-226643. Claims 47 - 52, 55 - 60, and 63 - 68 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious based on Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Misu and Litwin et al. ("Litwin"), U.S. Patent 6,100,770. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the revisions to the claims.

Additionally, Claim 70 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. This rejection is moot due to the cancellation of Claim 70. Nonetheless, Applicant's Attorney notes that Claim 70 depended from Claim 32 rejected as obvious based on Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Misu. If Claim 70 were rejectable based on prior art involving Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, it thus appears that the rejection would have to be an obviousness rejection based on a combination involving Applicant's Admitted Prior Art and Misu rather than an anticipation rejection based solely on Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Turning to the rejections of amended independent Claims 17 and 23, Claims 123 and 126 are dependent claims that have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 123 and 126, now canceled, respectively depended from dependent Claims 19 and 28, also now canceled, which respectively depended from the immediately previous versions of Claims 17 and 23.

Claim 17 has been revised to include the further limitations of dependent Claims 19 and 123. Claim 23 has been revised to include the further limitations of dependent Claims 28 and 126. Claims 17 and 23 thus now respectively constitute Claims 123 and 126 rewritten in independent form. Since Claims 123 and 126 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, Claim 17 and 23 are now allowable.

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Claims 18, 20 - 22, 47 - 54, and 69 all depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 17 subject to revising the dependencies of Claims 20 and 21 to account for the cancellation of Claim 19. Claims 24 - 27, 29 - 31, and 55 - 62 similarly all depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 23 subject to revising the dependencies of Claims 29 and 30 to account for the cancellation of Claim 28. Inasmuch as Claims 17 and 23 are now allowable, dependent Claims 18, 20 - 22, 24 - 27, 29 - 31, 47 - 62, and 69 are likewise allowable.

The cancellation of Claims 32 - 37, 70, and 63 - 68 (without prejudice) obviates the various rejections of those claims.

Claims 124, 125, 127, and 128 are dependent claims that have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The dependencies of Claims 124 and 125 have been revised so that they depend (directly) from Claim 17. The dependencies of Claims 127 and 128 have similarly been revised so that they depend (directly) from Claim 23. Since Claims 17 and 23 are now allowable, dependent Claims 124, 125, 127, and 128 are allowable in their present form.

The allowance of Claims 38 - 46 and 71 - 122 is noted.

Claims 129 and 130 are dependent claims that have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 129 and 130 respectively depend from Claims 116 and 117. Inasmuch as Claims 116 and 117 have been allowed, Claims 129 and 130 are allowable in their present form.

A punctuation error has been corrected in Claim 109.

The logical organization of the claims is now somewhat difficult to see due to the various amendments by which new claims have been added. To facilitate completion of the examination of the application, enclosed as Appendix B is a list in which pending Claims 17, 18, 20 - 27, 29 - 31, 38 - 62, 69, 71 - 122, 124, 125, and 127 - 130 are grouped in logical, rather than numerical, order. The method claims follow the structure claims in Appendix B.

Finally, in the Response mailed 7 October 2005 to the Notice mailed 19 September 2005 that the Amendment submitted 1 September 2005 for the above patent application is non-compliant, Applicant's Attorney corrected the non-compliance problem and stated that the "19 September 2005 Amendment should now be entered". Since the non-compliant Amendment was submitted 1 September 2005 rather than 19 September 2005, Applicant's

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Attorney should have stated at that point in the 7 October 2005 Response that the "1 September 2005 Amendment should now be entered".

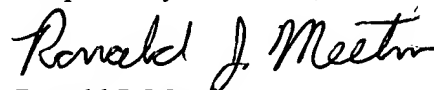
In short, the claims have been revised so that Claims 17, 18, 20 - 27, 29 - 31, 47 - 62, 69, 124, 125, 127, and 128 are now allowable. Claims 129 and 130 were previously allowable. Accordingly, Claims 17, 18, 20 - 27, 29 - 31, 47 - 62, 69, 124, 125, and 127 - 130 should be allowed along with already allowed Claims 38 - 46 and 71 - 122 so that the application may proceed to issue.

Please telephone Attorney for Applicant at 650-964-9767 if there are any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,



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